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Titanium dioxide in cosmetic products

General:

Titanium dioxide; [in powder form containing 1 % or more of particles with aerodynamic diameter $\leq 10 \mu\text{m}$] has a harmonized classification (Annex VI of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP)):

H351 (Inhalation) Suspected of causing cancer.

This classification will affect the substance as such and certain products containing the substance in specific concentrations (and relevant form). It will also affect products where normal use may result in risks of inhalation of particles.

Cosmetic products:

Cosmetic products are however not covered by the CLP Regulation (mentioned above) and therefore they shall not be classified or labelled according to the CLP Regulation.

Cosmetic products are covered by Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on cosmetic products. As a part of this regulation all cosmetic products must undergo a safety evaluation before they are marketed. Such an evaluation must be performed by a specialist with a degree in e.g., toxicology, pharmacology, or medicine.

When there are changes to substances which are used in cosmetic products such as the changes to the classification of titanium dioxide mentioned above, the SCCS (Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety) initiates a process of evaluating the safety of the substance, as used in cosmetic products.

Normally a CMR classified substance would immediately be banned in cosmetics products. The classification of titanium dioxide is however somewhat "special" as the classification is "limited" to inhalation of the substance when it is present within a given particle size/range.

Only products within the Plum product range containing titanium dioxide are our hand cleanser products (Premium, Super Plum, Profi, Plulux and Plulac), and the normal foreseeable use do not entail generation of particles which will be inhaled. The SCCS have evaluated titanium dioxide to be safe in these types of products; It is considered safe to use Titanium dioxide in cosmetic products that do not lead to exposure of the end user's lungs by inhalation.

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